

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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UNCLAS LONDON 14371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSIONERS SPEAK OUT FOR CONTINUED
BRITISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC

1. IN SEPARATE, STRONGLY-WORDED SPEECHES MADE IN
LONDON AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, BOTH BRITISH EC
COMMISSIONERS -- SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES AND GEORGE
THOMSON -- ARGUED THE CASE FOR BRITAIN'S CONTINUED
MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AN OFFICIAL
AT THE EC COMMISSION'S LONDON OFFICE HAS TOLD US THAT
THESE WERE THE OPENING SHOTS IN A CAMPAIGN THAT WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL THE EXPECTED REFERENDUM ON EC RENEGOTIA-
TION TAKES PLACE NEXT YEAR.

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2. SPEAKING ON NOVEMBER 1, AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (CHATHAM HOUSE), SOAMES DESCRIBED BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC TROUBLES AND ITS LOSS OF NATIONAL SELF-CONFIDENCE. BRITAIN NEEDS THE COMMUNITY, HE SAID, IN ORDER TO PULL ITSELF OUT OF THIS CRISIS. "FRANKLY, ITS DAMN COLD OUTSIDE, AND IN OUR PRESENT PARLOUS POSITION, THIS IS NO TIME FOR BRITAIN TO CONSIDER LEAVING A CHRISTMAS CLUB, LET ALONE THE COMMON MARKET."

3. SOAMES WARNED THAT THE ANTI-MARKETEERS IN THE UK, "NOW LARGELY DEPRIVED OF ARGUMENTS OF A TANGIBLE AND SUBSTANTIAL CHARACTER," WILL TEND TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTACK ON THE MORE NEBULOUS, INTANGIBLE ISSUE OF SOVEREIGNTY. THE "TRAPPINGS OF SOVEREIGNTY" ARE ILLUSORY, HE SAID. WHAT IS THE USE OF BEING FREE TO "POSTURE IN ISOLATION" WHEN THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR DECISIONS WHERE THERE EXISTS THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE TO BACK THEM UP.

4. THOMSON SPOKE ON NOVEMBER 2 AT THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT. HE ARGUED THAT WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS STRENGTHEN THE CASE FOR WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY. "THE ALTERNATIVE OF RUNNING FOR NATIONAL COVER INEVITABLY MEANS AN ABJECT LACK OF BARGAINING POWER, AND A BEGGAR-MY-NEIGHBOR PROCESS OF PROTECTION." THOMSON URGED THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT TO EXPLODE THE MYTHS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE MYTH THAT IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPENSIVE FOOD. IT SHOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE "THE POLITICAL COST OF GOING IT ALONE."

5. WE ARE FORWARDING TEXTS OF THESE SPEECHES TO THE DEPARTMENT AND USEC.

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